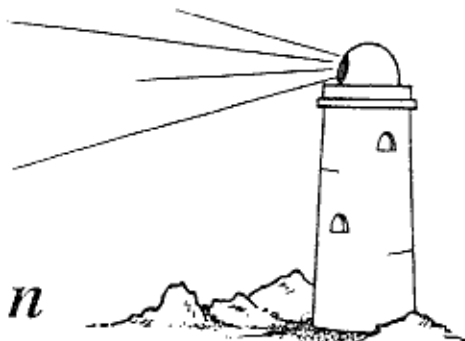


The Bosomworth Beacon



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What's in a name?

Well for some, it's how you say it that counts. Bosomworth lends itself to that and reports have been trickling in that, to some, it makes a difference. Pronunciations seem to vary primarily with the first syllable—"Bah" or "Buh"somworth.

Creative genealogy seems to run in our family and one cousin relates that "to care for the lurid imagination of my male associates in college, I created a lineage that was lost in a bothel in "mid-evil" times. This was embellished with Henry VII's tax collectors demanding payment and so on. This lineage improved upon each telling. Strangely enough, everybody loved the story and it was never challenged, especially since the name is carried by the male line and the endowment is carried by the female. But that is the way of fairy tales."

Another cousin hypothesized along the same lines in pondering "whether we came from a distant line of buxom medieval ladies of the night? Sadly not!", he concludes.

Dark or light?

David Bosomworth of British Columbia (Canada) reports that on a visit to England in the 1960s he was told that there were "dark" and "light" Bosomworth families who were not related to each other. His line was supposed to fall in the "dark" category and he interpreted that designation to be a characteristic of complexion. Has any one else information about this custom?

Early Bosomworth probate records in Yorkshire

In Issue 2 of the *Beacon* we talked about the earliest Bosomworth parish register entries as a possible indicator of the original location of Bosomworth as a surname. Bosomworth entries from 1580 (Kirby Sigston) and 1598 (Felixkirk) are the earliest yet located from parish records.

Probate records provide another source for this study. A probate proceeding usually indicates that one had world goods left to distribute when death called. In earlier times, as well as today, only a fraction of those who died will appear in this type of record.

Probate takes two forms—wills and administrations. A will was made if the deceased planned ahead. An administration occurred if he neglected this step and had sufficient possessions to necessitate an orderly distribution after death. The court would then appoint an "Administrator" to oversee the process. (An "Executor" is the term applied to the person who executes or carries out the wishes of one who left a will.)

The earliest Yorkshire will that appears for Bosomworth is one dated 7 Feb 1389 for Adam de Bosseword, Sausemaker of York. Given the variability in early spelling (Bosseworth, Bossonworth, Bosaworth, Bosenworth, Bosumworth, Bosomwood, etc.) this appears likely to be our surname. (One of our English correspondents is working to secure a copy of this will.)

The next earliest Bosomworth wills and administrations that have been located in Yorkshire probate indexes are as follows:

<u>Date of Prob.</u>	<u>Name, residence, parish</u>	<u>Type</u>
1527 June 22	William of Aldeburghe	W
1562 Oct 3	Jenet of Sutton under Whitestonecliff, wid.	W
1591 Apr 13	William of Sutton under Whitestonecliff	W
1634 July 17	Adam of Sutton under Whitestone Cliff	W
1661 Sept. 13	Anthonie of Thirleby, linnendraper	W
1671 Oct 31	William, of Wasse, linnendraper	W
1691 Dec. 4	William of Camshead, Bulmer deanery	A
1720/21	Thomas of Potto (<i>near Whorlton</i>)	W
1736 May	William of Sutton under Whitestonecliff	
	parish Feliskirk	A
1736/7 Feb	George of Thirlby, parish Feliskirk	A
1737 July	William of Thirlby, parish Feliskirk	A
1737/8 Feb	Alice of Thirlby, parish Feliskirk	W
1748 May	Thomas of Goulton, parish Whorlton	W
1754 Nov	Adam of Hammersmith, par. of Middlesex	W
1757 Mar	Christopher, foreign parts (<i>mariner</i>)	W
1762 Feb	William of Sutton under Whitestonecliffe,	
	parish Feliskirk	W
1766 Nov	John of Olstead, parish Kilburn	A
1779 Oct	William of Hood Grange, parish Kilburn	W
1782 Dec	Leonard of Carlton Miniott, parish Thirsk	W
1784 Sept	George of Byland, parish Coxwold	W
1793 Jan	John of York	W
1795 July	Adam of York	W

(Note: Aldeburghe was a parish in the district of Skirlaugh near Hull in the East Riding.)

Sources

Index to Wills of York 1660-1661
Index to Wills in the Chancery Court of the Archbishop of York 1731-1737
Index of Wills, etc. from the Dean and Chapter Court of York 1321-1639
Index of Wills, Administrations, and Probate Acts in the York Registry 1660-1665
Index to the Unregistered Wills August 1, 1633 to July 31, 1634 and to Probate Acts for the same period
Wills in the York Registry 1666-1672
An Index to the Wills Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1750-1800
Probate Index to Yorkshire Deaneries 1688-1710
Wills in the York Registry 1514-1553, 1554-1568, 1592
Indexes to Wills in the York Registry to 1800

The LDS Church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or "Mormons") has microfilmed extensively in Yorkshire and their holdings contain a nearly complete collection of early probate records for the county. On a recent research trip to their huge library in Salt Lake City, I obtained copies of the above wills and administrations (as well as all others up to 1858 when centralized civil registration began for probate).

Probate proceedings were not centralized when this function was performed by ecclesiastical courts. If a person's goods were located exclusively within the home parish, probate was handled by the lowest court. If possessions extended into more than one parish, that bumped the proceeding up to a higher court. And if one were affluent enough to have possessions that extended across county lines (York and somewhere else) or died at sea perhaps, then the proceeding likely would be handled by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. While this appears straight-forward enough, there were exceptions, and sometime other courts (Peculiar Courts, etc.) tipped into the chain of authority as well.

Probate records survive in two forms. Amazingly, some originals are to be found, but most are copies that were transcribed into the official probate registers. (These latter are known as "register copies.") Most of the oldest probate records for Yorkshire are now archived at the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research at the University of York. Original wills at the Borthwick may also have inventories and other papers dealing with the estate bundled together. (If copies are made by Bothwick, as were some of ours, these additional papers are copied as well.)

Checking the indexes of the various courts and copying the entries from film was the easy part. Reading the early script of the time was another matter! The earliest Bosomworth wills are in English (with probate details added in Latin), while the early administrations are primarily in Latin. Both wills and administrations contain numerous abbreviations (some standard and some more original). The script, though beautifully executed in many cases, can be nearly incomprehensible to the untutored eye. (I am grateful to the knowledgeable staff of the British Reference Desk at the library in Salt Lake City for their expert help in translating our early Bosomworth probate documents.)

Example: WILL OF WILLIAM BOSOMWORTH PASSED 13 APRIL 1592

In the name of god amen, The fiftenth of December in the yere of our lord god 1591 I William Bosomworth of Sutton under whitestonecliffe in the county of York yeoman sicke in body but of a good and fitt remembrance praised be God Do make my last will and testament in manner and form followinge First I give and bequeath my soule to the holie blessed and undivided treynite. Then my body to be buried in the (parish) church yearde off Felix church nigh unto the place where my late mother was buried there. Item I give and bequeath unto my brother John Bosomworth ten poundes over and besides all that which he oweth me. Item I give and bequeath unto my father in law James Crop (Cowp or couyp) one yarded cow, and twenty shillings in money. Item I give and bequeath unto my godson William Whyte two shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Metcalf my Butter iron, the rest of all my goods my debts paid and funeral discharged I do give and bequeath unto my brother Adam Bosomworth whom I constitute ordain and make executor of this my last will and testament in presence of Thomas Metcalf John Chapman Anthony maisterman and James Coop (following in Latin) on 13 of April 1592 personally appeared Johannes Chapman and Jacobi Cowp. . . Maisterman lawfully named in the testament ((also appears to say at the end in Latin either that Adam Bosomworth is now deceased or that he is acting for the dead))

It reads:

In the name of God Amen, The fifteenth of december in the year of our lord god 1591 I William Bosomworth of Sutton under whitestonecliffe in the county of York yeoman. Sicke in body but of a good and fitt remembrance praised be God Do make my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath my soul to the Holie blessed and undivided trenitie. Then my body to be buried in the (parish) church yearde off Felix church nigh unto the place where my late mother was buried there. Item I give and bequeath unto my brother John Bosomworth ten poundes over and besides all that which he oweth me. Item I give and bequeath unto my father in law James Crop (Cowp or couyp) one yarded cow, and twenty shillings in money. Item I give and bequeath unto my godson William Whyte two shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Metcalf my Butter iron, the rest of all my goods my debts paid and funeral discharged I do give and bequeath unto my brother Adam Bosomworth whom I constitute ordain and make executor of this my last will and testament in presence of Thomas Metcalf John Chapman Anthony maisterman and James Coop (following in Latin) on 13 of April 1592 personally appeared Johannes Chapman and Jacobi Cowp. . . Maisterman lawfully named in the testament ((also appears to say at the end in Latin either that Adam Bosomworth is now deceased or that he is acting for the dead))

Ancestry of Thomas Bosomworth of Colonial Georgia

Evidence that Bosomworths ventured much beyond the boundaries of Yorkshire before 1800 is scant. Thomas Bosomworth and his appearance in the official records of the colony of Georgia in America is a noted exception. Thomas is reported to have originally sailed from England in 1741, returned there in 1742 to receive Holy Orders, and journeyed again to Georgia in 1743. Thomas and his half-breed wife, Mary, lobbied the colonial government of Georgia for a substantial grant of land based on Mary's Creek Indian heritage and her service as a scout and interpreter to Gen. Oglethorpe. (They eventually received St Catherine's Island off the coast of Georgia. For a fuller account, see *Beacon*, Issue 1.) We thought that this Thomas must surely originate from Yorkshire, but just how he connected was unknown. One of these early wills appears to have solved the puzzle of Thomas Bosomworth.

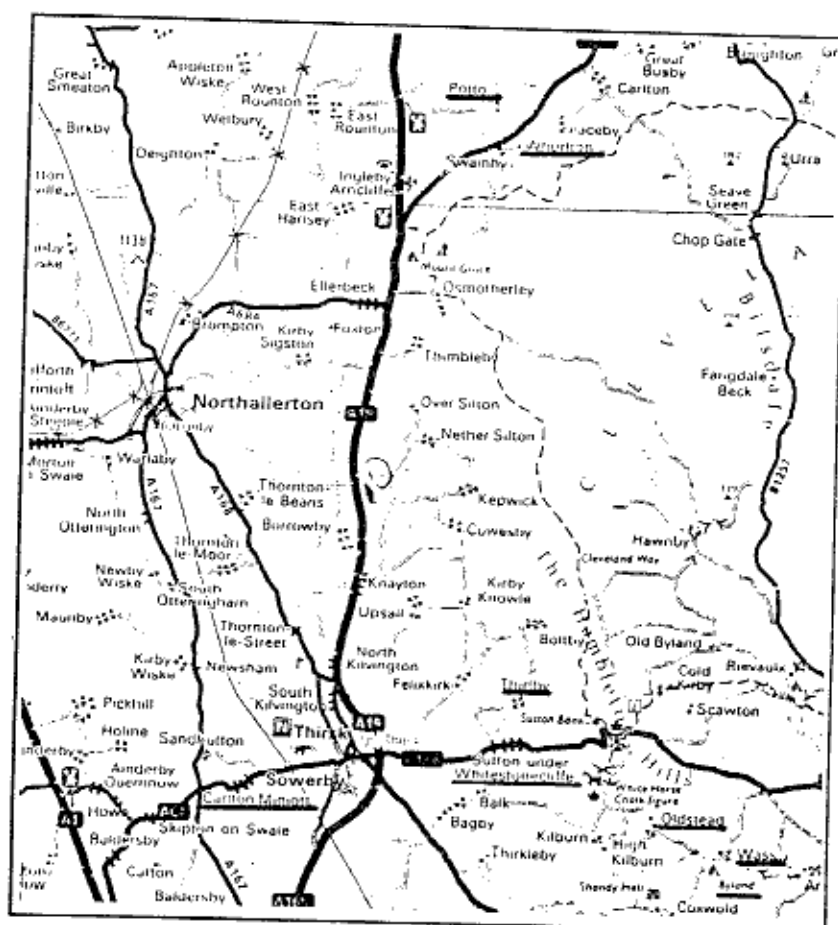
The will of Thomas Bosomworth of Goulton, parish of Whorlton (signed 17 Mar 1747; "passed the seal" 7 May 1748) contains, among others, the following bequests:

"To my dear wife Sarah, all my lands and hereditaments situate at Goulton aforesaid which formerly belonged to my father and descended or came to me on his death for the term of her natural life and from and after her decease to my eldest son Thomas Bosomworth, his heirs and assigns, **he being abroad**. If he returns into England subject and chargeable nevertheless with the payment of the sum of 50 pounds to my son Abraham, if he shall return into England but not otherwise - and likewise the sum of 50 pounds to my son Benjamin Bosomworth and the like sum of 50 pounds to my son Adam Bosomworth, all the said sums to be paid within 12 months next after the decease of my said wife. . . *(additional bequests to several daughters and grandchildren and the provision that if Thomas does not return then Abraham shall "enjoy the said premises")*. . . provided also that if neither of my said sons, Thomas or Abraham, **who are now beyond Sea**, shall return into England and enter upon and enjoy the said premises then I give and devise the same to my said son Benjamin, his heirs. . . [to dear wife] all my lands and hereditaments situate at Goulton aforesaid which I purchased of my sister Anna Myeick (until daughter Ann Bosomworth reaches age of 21).....

The reference Thomas makes to his sister, Anna Myeick, provides the clue to another family connection. The will of Adam Bosomworth (mistakenly indexed as "Ada Bosomworth" in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills) of Hammersmith, County of Middlesex (passed 9 Nov. 1754) leaves everything to "my beloved sister Anna Myrrick now residing with me at Hammersmith".

Thomas (father of the Georgia Thomas), Adam and Anna can be traced back a generation farther as children and heirs in the will of their father, Thomas Bosomworth of Potto (passed 1720/21).

Early
Bosomworth
Probates



Cousins

Our sympathy is extended to Cousin Jeanne Primmer of Victoria (Australia) on the death of her husband, John Allan Primmer. Jeanne's mother, Melina Ann Bosomworth (ca1898-1982), traces through her parents, Thomas Bosomworth (1868-1917) and Mary Ann Booth, to the Leeds line of Charles Edward Bosomworth (1839-1898) who married Mary Speight. Charles has descendents who emigrated from England to Canada, the USA, and Australia. A number of our cousins share this line.

We are delighted to report a happy linking of cousins recently via the *Beacon*. Chris Stuart of Cleveland (England) and Ian Stewart of Argyll (Scotland) have discovered that they both descend from the Leeds family of William Jackson Bosomworth (1824-1886) (see *Beacon*, Issue 2, p. 15). A real plus in their fruitful exchange of family data has been their ability to

put names to several previously unidentified family photos. This is what makes family history so rewarding!

Yet another Leeds family has surfaced with our cousin A.J. Bosomworth of Skipton, North Yorkshire who traces via his grandfather, Albert (b. 1882, Riccal), through Thomas Bosomworth (bapt. 1853, Bagby) who married Elizabeth Ann Massa, to William Bosomworth (b. ca 1828, Crayke, shoemaker) and his wife, Jane Freer. The marriage certificate of William and Jane lists William's father as Charles Bosomworth. Arthur Bosomworth of Bradford, West Yorkshire is a son of Albert (b. 1882, Riccal) and stems from this line as well.

David Bosomworth of British Columbia (Canada) sent this interesting sketch from his family. Hubert was the son of Robinson Bosomworth (b. ca 1849, Sand Hutton—see *Beacon*, Issue 2, p. 13 for more on this line).

"My grandfather, Hubert Bosomworth, M.A. was born on November 3rd, 1886, at Knayton, near Thirsk, Yorkshire, England. There he received his schooling and learned the carpentry trade. He was a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and an active worker in its services. In 1906, he obtained highest honours in the Local Preachers' Examinations. In this same year, he came to Canada, and offered himself for the ministry of the Methodist Church. He was accepted and served at Gull Lake, Saskatchewan and Rocky Coulee, Alberta, prior to college. During his college years, he served two summers at Bowville and one at Holden (Alberta). He entered Alberta College in 1909 and graduated in theology in 1915. In this same year, he married Edith Bradshaw from Warwick, Alberta. They had three children: Neil, Eric, and Arthur (d. of spinal meningitis). In 1926, Hubert Bosomworth fell from a house that he was helping to build. Although he returned to work after several months recovery, he did not fully recover his health, and died of bone cancer in 1938. His wife, Edith, remarried Rev. Charlie Rogers in 1943, who had children from a previous marriage."

Early marriage certificates

Do you have any Bosomworth marriage certificates in your possession? If so, would you please send us a copy for our Bosomworth Family Files. Marriage records establish the beginning of a new family and are the cornerstone of family history. Many times we can infer a marriage (when a couple is living together with their eight children, we hope for the best!), but it is important that we provide official evidence for the marriage if at all possible. (The authorities have not been casual about this and in times past, a child born to unmarried parents could not legally inherit.) Civil

registration of marriages in England began in July 1837 and continues to the present. There are nation-wide indexes which give the year, quarter filed, registration district, volume and page. With the identification numbers from these indexes, a copy of the certificate itself can then be ordered. We currently have in our Bosomworth Family Files all marriage index entries for our surname from 1837 through 1900.

Information on the certificate includes: date and location of marriage, name of bride and groom with the occupation of each, their age (sometimes given as "of full age"), residence, fathers' name (plus occupation) of both bride and groom. The occupation can be particularly helpful when you have a plethora of Johns, Williams, and Georges. (Trades, such as shoemaking, ran distinctively in some Bosomworth families and, while not necessarily providing positive identification, may provide a clue to kinship.)

If you are looking for a Bosomworth marriage that occurred after July 1837, we will be happy to check our index entries for you. Then, if you would like a copy of the certificate, we have a source through which we can order one from England for US\$11. (This is a bargain as ordering directly from London, airmail rates to the U.S. are US\$23 (with the complete reference citation) or US\$29 (if they research it for you). It will also allow us to make a copy for our files, and increase our database of basic Bosomworth research material. Consider it!

Thanks

Two of our cousins from England—Chris Stuart and Beryl Ward— have offered their help in gathering Bosomworth data. Chris is checking on that earliest Bosomworth will that I could not locate in Salt Lake City and Beryl and I have discussed possible info-gathering options in London. Your offers of help are greatly appreciated! Any others? I have lots of ideas.

Spread the word!

This issue of the *Beacon* is being sent only to those who have expressed an interest following our initial issues. Earlier issues were sent to a much broader list, but economics dictate that those who did not respond must now be dropped from the mailing.

We are eager to reach any Bosomworth kin who might be interested in their family history, so spread the word yourself—and pass their names and addresses along to us.

Please let us hear from you! We'd like to know about your Bosomworth family and just how you fit into the overall picture. And if you make new discoveries in your own research, please share those with us, too. Cousin Jan Cloud will be happy to check the Bosomworth Family Files to see if we have material that can help you.